JUNE 2015

Hands on News

The **FREE** newspaper for Barton produced by Barton residents and community workers

MERCY IN ACTION

JEM Todd is a well known face around Barton. As part of the Thrive Barton team, he lives in Barton, and has worked here for a number of years.

Jem has been steeped in charitable works since he was very young. On holiday in the Philippines, his mum and dad came out of a restaurant with a friend to discover hungry street children with no homes and no parents. Taking them back inside they bought them a meal, and when the kids asked for the chicken bones to be wrapped so they could chew on them the next day, they knew they had to do something. Some of these children were the same age as their then seven-year-old son.

John and Alison Todd started a charity called Mercy In Action, and from the age of 9nine Jem found himself in the Philippines every holiday, making friends and running around with street kids, eating ice creams and swimming at the beach with them. Meanwhile his mum and dad were setting up projects to help them, including introducing feeding programmes, building houses and getting other people involved. He loved it, and went every year until he was much older.

The central idea of Mercy in Action is to provide a safe environment for these abandoned children, year on year. The aim is to provide a real community with a family feeling, which provides not only basic needs, but also education, training and even jobs with Mercy in Action. It's been in existence for 21 years, and the Todds have watched their charges grow up, sometimes all the way from babyhood, some to have families of their own.

Jem says Mercy in Action has a 100% success rate, because it operates as a huge family, and even when kids run away for a time they are welcomed back and not given up on.

As a young adult, Jem worked in one of the many charity shops set up by Mercy in Action, which turn over around £800,000 a year and have an impact on about 2,000 youngsters annually. But after a while, he felt the need for a change, as well as to rid himself of any feelings of "entitlement" through being part of a charitable family organisation. He went to train as a community worker at Ruskin College in Oxford. After a short period with Oxford Council he moved to Thrive.

Thrive is an organisation that looks at the needs of the community and plans projects that aim to raise the aspirations of young people, leading them to believe in themselves and in their ability to achieve something greater than they thought they were capable of. One of these projects, as many people in Barton will know, is the Young Achievers' Dinner which takes place in the autumn.

The youngsters involved will have been meeting over several months to plan the event. They come up with the theme themselves, prepare the room and the tables, cook and serve the three-course meal, and provide entertainment.

It's a master class in inspiration and coordination. Feeling that he's achieved all he can at Thrive, it's time for Jem to "pass on the baton to someone else" and return to the family fold, taking with him his experience of working outside it, always with youngsters.

And it really is a family enterprise. Jem's sister Emily lives in the Philippines with her Filipino husband and their three adoptive and two natural children. She oversees the projects there, as well as the thirty or so employees who carry out its aims, including local social workers.

They also work closely with the International Justice Mission, who rescue children from the sex trade. Mercy in Action houses and supports those children too. Jem's new role will be to think about future strategy and fundraising opportunities, to help open more shops, and perhaps to put together more teams from the UK.

But don't worry! Jem won't be leaving Barton. He'll be staying put with his wife Philippa and twins Izzy and Noah. Barton Community Association is delighted that he will continue as a Trustee, and the many young people he's been involved with will be happy too.



Jem Todd with daughter Izzy.



Spring Clean for Barton

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Barton Sings!

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USEFUL NUMBERS

SCHOOLS	
Bayards Hill Primary School	01865 761656
Cheney Secondary School	01865 765726
Sandhills Primary School	01865 433000
Wheatley Park Secondary School	01865 872441
HEALTH	
Barton Surgery	01865 744221
Bury Knowle Health Centre	01865 308400
Manor Surgery	01865 762535
Churchill Hospital	01865 741841
John Radcliffe Hospital	01865 741166
Nuffield Hospital	01865 741155
NHS Direct	111
LOCAL SHOPS	
Chemist	01865 763106
Chippy	01865 761712
Spar	01865 763606
COUNCILS/COUNCILLORS/MP	
Andrew Smith M.P	01865 595790
Oxford City Council	01865 249811
Oxfordshire County Council	01865 792422
Cllr Van Coulter	07767496409
Cllr Glynis Phillips	07929659902
Cllr Mike Rowley	07827532445
SERVICES	
Barton Community Association	01865 761987
Leisure Centre	01865 467290
Barton Pavilion	01865 452616
St Mary's Church	01865 761886
Oxford Mail	01865 425262
Civicare	01865 744174
Barton Advice Centre	01865 744152
Oxfordshire Advocacy	01865 741200
Roundabout Family Centre	01865 764952
Police – Emergency	999
Police – non emergency	101
Recycling and Waste information	01865 249811

Patient Participation Group at Manor Surgery Headington

HAVE you ever wondered what makes your surgery tick? Have you ever wanted to be a critical friend to your surgery? Do you fancy being part of an advisory group? Ask those questions you've always wanted answers to?

If you've answered "Yes" to any of the above then why not come along and join us for debate and discussion. The meetings take place in the waiting room at the Surgery in Osler Road and the next one is due to be held on Monday 1 June between 6.30pm–8pm.

We are currently planning a therapy health day that will take place at the Neighbourhood Centre later in the year. Come along in June and see what happens and have your say.

If you need transport to access the meeting then please give Sue a ring on 07866 460446

BARTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

WE ARE looking for someone who enjoys admin work, is able to use their initiative and is organised, self motivated, flexible, familiar with software packages and would enjoy working for the benefit of the community.

There is currently a part time vacancy (ten hours per week) for an administrator within the Community Association. If you think you are the person we are looking for then please request an application pack (sorry no CVs) and a copy of the job description from Sharon, Senior Administrator on 01865 761987, Sue, Manager on 07866 460446 or call into the office on the first floor at Barton Neighbourhood Centre.

This is a fixed term contract and salary will be based on experience.

Closing date for applications is Friday 3 July.

An evening of clairvoyance

We have booked Jennie Grayson and Claire Evans to come along for an evening of clairvoyance on Friday 18 September between 7–10pm.

The tickets cost £7 each and they will be limited so if you want to join us for a truly entertaining evening please call Sue on 07866 460446 to book your tickets.

Please remember not to turn up on the evening without a ticket because admission will be refused.

Barton Community Association (BCA)

Please note our new website address:

www.bartoncommunityassociation.com

Welcome to Barton!

ARE you new to Barton? Do you want to know what`s going on? Do you want to get involved with your new community? Do you have young children? Are you elderly or living alone? Are you a family new to the area? In fact, if you just live in Barton and you have answered "Yes" to any of those questions then please get in touch with us here at Barton Community Association.

Please feel free to pop into the Neighbourhood Centre and ask for either Sharon or Sue who will be pleased to give you some local background about Barton, what goes on and what`s available for you. We want to make sure all new residents feel part of our community regardless of your background or culture. We will soon be planning our annual community event The Barton Bash, and you may just want to know what takes place, or you may even want to get involved.

Do you represent a minority culture within our community? If so please let us know as we want to share and integrate our customs for the benefit of all – especially around food and recipes.

Please give Sue a ring on 07866 460446, email at susanholden@hotmail.com contact the BCA office on 01865 761987 or just pop into the office on the first floor at the Neighbourhood Centre.

Come and join us and be part of a great community.

BARTON ON FACEBOOK

What's going on in Barton?

For news, photos, and information go to...

facebook

and search for Barton Community to find out.

DO YOU ENJOY READING Hands on News?

Then why not get involved in the next one?

We are always looking for local residents to write articles, send in pictures and help produce future issues of the newspaper.

07900 038305
clayton.lavallin@hotmail.co.uk

Is your child struggling at school or do they need a boost to improve their grades?

English · Maths · Reading · Science

Ages 5-16

Oxford Education Centres-the only tuition centre in Oxford staffed by fully qualified teachers

Working Tax Credit - if you are eligible for the "childcare element" of Working Tax Credit, you may be able to claim up to 70% of the cost of The Education Centres course fee's as a tax credit.



Amazing Value! ACT NOW

Call for a FREE assessment on 01865 402950 or visit www.oxfordeducationcentres.com

BARTON BASH

JUST a reminder that this year's Bash will take place on Saturday 26 September between 12–4pm. If you want to book a stall, book a performance slot or just be part of the event by volunteering your help then please get in touch and register your interest now.

Look forward to hearing from you.
Sue Holden
07866 460446
susanholden@hotmail.com

The Hands on News Team

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Hands on News is funded by BCA, GreenSquare and Oxfordshire County Council.

Spring Clean for Barton



BARTON has recently received a well-deserved spring clean thanks to local residents, community organisations, Oxford City Council and local Councillors.

Barton's Housing and Environment group, which is part of Barton Community Partnership and made up of key local representatives, organised its yearly Spring Walkabout in February.

During the very well attended walkabout areas in need of a good clear up were identified including areas in Sherwood place and Bayswater Brook.

Community Clear up day
The group then took part in the National Community clear-up day on Saturday 21 March where local residents, members of the Communities and Neighbourhoods Team at the City Council and local councillors spent two hours clearing up Bayswater Brook, collecting 15 black bags and finding five children's scooters, three bikes, two wheelbarrows and a shopping trolley amongst other items!

Once reported the bulky items were cleared up within days by the City Council's Parks team.

Moss Removal
You may have also noticed Council staff spraying walls, drying areas and walkways all over Barton in May; this was the first step towards improving the street environment by removing moss as part of the City Council's Great Estates programme, the same programme that improved grass areas in Burchester Avenue to allow parking last year.

Sherwood Place Weeping Willow Tree
The maintenance of the Sherwood Place willow tree and its surroundings has been an on-going item discussed by the housing and environment group and due to the group's determination to keep it on the agenda it has finally been solved. The ownership of the tree has now been identified as Barratt Homes and they have now completed the pollarding of the tree and grass cutting. The tree does now look very bare, but nothing to worry about as it will recover over the next two years.

As you can see the group was been involved in making change happen in Barton and we are encouraging more residents to become involved to continue this work as part of the Community Partnership.



Get involved in Barton
If your interest is not housing or environment, there are other theme groups that meet in Barton as part of the Community Partnership, these are:
Health and Well-being, Learning, training and employment, Community Safety and Barton Integration and Community Engagement Partnership (BICEP).

To find out how you can get involved in the Barton Housing and Environment group or one of the other theme groups, please contact the Barton locality officer Azul Strong at astrong@oxford.gov.uk or call 07767 318274.

To report fly tipping, graffiti or abandoned vehicles, please contact Safer Oxford on 01865 249811 or email saferoxford@oxford.gov.uk

If you require a bulky waste collection, each household is entitled to two free collections per year of up to three items per visit. To request a collection, please call 01865 249811.

■ To find out what is happening in Barton, please visit: www.oxford.gov.uk/barton

POLICE UPDATE

In general
It's been relatively quiet in Barton recently, bar one or two incidents. There was an incident outside the shops quite recently, when a shop window was smashed. The problem was identified as local youths getting drunk. The situation has been dealt with by mounting extra patrols.

Any adult found purchasing alcohol for an underage persons will risk prosecution, or a fine of £500. Police officers will check the CCTV footage and use evidence from that. There's a clear notice warning people not to do so, so ignorance will be no excuse.

New team members
The police team has three new faces, which brings it up to its full strength of two police officers and four PCSOs. They are PC Richard Morley, PCSO Tom Wiltshire and PCSO Sam Timms.

PC Richard Morley writes: "I began working for Thames Valley Police in 2010 as a control room operator. In 2012 I joined a response team as a police constable based at Cowley, which included spending some of my time in the Barton area. I joined the Barton, Risinghurst and Sandhills neighbourhood policing team in March 2015. My primary role is to tackle drug-related crime in the area. I enjoy spending time outdoors so you will see me out and about with the rest of the team."

PCSO Tom Wiltshire writes: "I was born and bred in Cardiff, Wales. I studied Police Sciences at Glamorgan University before moving to Oxford last September. My wife works for South Central Ambulance Service, so I followed her up to this neck of the woods.

"I am an avid sportsman, I enjoy playing and watching rugby, football, and cricket. I'm a keen cyclist and as a PCSO I relish the opportunity to get out patrolling my the area by bike.

"I'm looking forward to working with and getting to know the community of Barton, Risinghurst and Sandhills."

PCSO Sam Timms writes: "I'm a new PCSO in the Barton, Risinghurst and Sandhills neighbourhood police team. I have lived in the Oxfordshire area my entire life. I have spent the last eight years working in retail, and look forward to working with Barton residents."

Crime prevention

ONE of the Police Community Support Officer's role is to patrol their area, unfortunately we are not always around to prevent crime and we stress that the public need to work alongside us to make it difficult for criminals to go about their business. Below, are a few helpful pointers which may help you from becoming a victim of crime. Some of the advice may be obvious, but please take some time to read and become familiar with the advice.

Household crime:
- Make sure all windows and doors are closed and locked. (even if you are in the back garden)
- Not leaving any valuable items in front of windows or in plain sight.
- Investing in an external security light, or consider leaving a light on in your house if it will be dark before you get home.
- Consider getting CCTV, it might be expensive but it will deter criminals. If CCTV is too expensive you can opt for the cheaper option by purchasing a dummy CCTV.

Car crime:
- Don't leave any valuable items in your car e.g. loose change, Sat-Nav, mobile phones, removable radios and sunglasses.
- Wipe any Sat-Nav marks left on the windscreen.
- Consider fitting anti-tamper screws to your number plates.
- Never leave car keys where they can be seen from the front door.

■ **If you need to speak with a PCSO or Police officer further, we welcome you to down the Barton Neighbourhood office at Underhill Circus, Barton, Oxford.**

This Girl Can...can you?



YOU may have seen the recent TV adverts from Sport England that celebrates the women who are doing their sporting thing no matter what, where, when or even how sweaty they get! Well we are bringing that to the real women of Barton and call on you all to come and join the thousands of other women across the country that are getting active for themselves and having great fun along the way!

You can join in at Barton Leisure Centre with our new Mother and Toddler Street Dance every Thursday from 1pm–1.45pm. The class involves fun routines for both mum and the little ones and is a great way to build fitness, boost self-confidence and meet other women in the area.

As part of the Active Women project you can get a free water bottle for attending five classes and a fantastic free t-shirt for attending nine classes! Plus there are prizes from the Roundabout Centre for the children too. Classes are just £1.20 per adult and children (under 14) go free, but please note there is a maximum of three children per one adult.

Girl power is also taking over the Leisure Centre every Tuesday evening with only women allowed; including staff! From 7pm onwards it is ladies only swimming and gym with classes coming soon too.

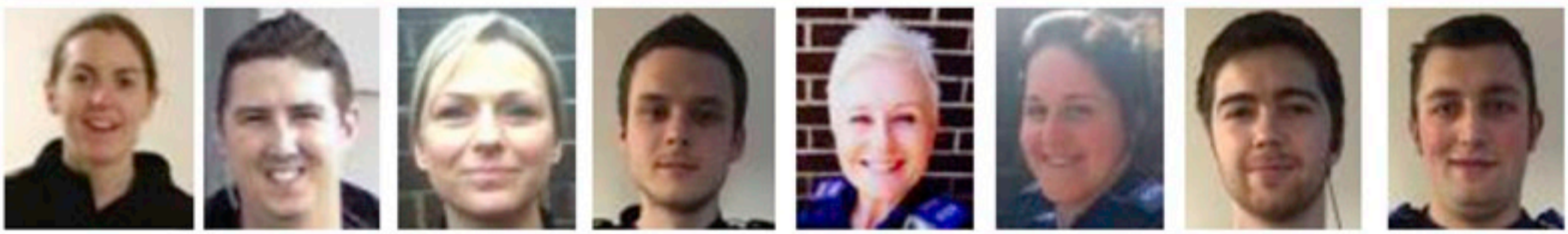
So let us help you feel great in time for the summer...grab the girls and get going!

Also coming soon to Barton:
- **Take a dip with five swims for £5**
- **Ladies Swimming lessons**

■ **For more information on these classes please contact the Leisure Centre on 01865 467290 or visit the Active Women website: www.oxfordshiresport.org/active-women/**

■ **More information about the This Girl Can campaign can be found at: www.thisgirlcan.co.uk**

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM
BARTON, RISINGHURST & SANDHILLS



Insp Rachel Patterson | PS Martyn Williams | PC Dawn Evans | PC Richard Morley | PCSO Carol Henry | PCSO Libbie Stiff | PCSO Tom Wiltshire | PCSO Sam Timms

Oxford Safer Communities Partnership

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Contact us

Email :
BartonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Or Call: 101
(for non-emergencies)

THE ORDERS OF ST JOHN CARE TRUST

Care home residents get their bowling shoes on!



FROM motor-biking to bowling, residents at Townsend House in Headington have geared up to enjoy an afternoon of bowling at the Bowlplex centre in Oxford.

Faces lit up when they saw the variety of games on offer.

After digging into a light seasonal packed lunch, it was time for them to get their game face on.

Pamela Reading, 84, provided some much needed encouragement and was the group's main supporter.

When asked how she liked the outing she said: "I just like being here. The balls are a bit heavy, but that is just part of the game I guess".

Paul Gardiner, 31, and Activities Coordinator at Townsend House said: "it was great to see the residents smiling and seeing them having fun. Although its not a difficult game, when it was my turn the guys decided to lower the guard rails which put me at a significant disadvantage, but I gave it my best shot."

Peggy Gubbins, 97, who mentioned that she is not able to see as well as she used to said: "It was really good taking part in the game. I find it really hard to see and I did not expect to win but winning was a real bonus."

Residents were presented with their certificates of participation after the games and they said it will remind them of the fun they had.

■ **For further information, please contact: Luciano Thomas, 07881 831818**

BCA UPDATES

Art Club Supervisor Post

We are currently looking for a replacement member of staff for our Friday afternoon After School Arts and Crafts Club. This post will become available from the start of the Autumn school term in September.

This is a term time only post and the hours are 3.15pm–5pm each session. If you are interested in applying for this post please call into the BCA office on the first floor at the Neighbourhood Centre for an application form and job description.

Cadburys World Day Trip

We are arranging a free trip to Cadburys World for current members of our Art Club and Fun to Learn Homework Club on Tuesday 28 July. We will be leaving the Neighbourhood Centre at approximately 9.30am and returning by 5pm. There may be some spare seats on the coach for anyone who would like to join us.

The coach will be free, but you will need to pay for your entrance to Cadburys World. This will be at the reduced Group rates of adult £12.10 and children £9.65. Entrance must be paid for by 15 July to guarantee a ticket and a seat on the coach. For further details please call Sue Holden on 07866 460446 or susanholden@hotmail.com

A trip down Memory Lane

We are hoping to compile a document listing the history of our local shops from when they were first built in the late forties.

We want to include details of all the shopkeepers who stood behind the counters from Day One so if you have any information please let us know.

Who remembers Mr Evans who sold paraffin in the shop that is now the Chippy, Mr and Mrs Hall who ran the post office followed by Alison and Albert Aldridge, The ex RAF officer who was the original newsagent at 14 Underhill Circus.

Our Co-op butcher was Geoff Armstrong, but this leaves lots of gaps to be filled. What were the names of the staff behind the counter in the Co-op grocery store before it was converted into a mini supermarket?

■ **Please drop into the Neighbourhood Centre or call Sue on 07866 460446 susanholden@hotmail.com to remind ourselves of some blasts from the past!**

SEA-SAND-SUN: All aboard the Barton Express!

WE'RE now booked for the summer holiday coach trips, and below we've listed the dates and destinations. ALL tickets will be £10 per person (even babies need to be allocated a seat) and each passenger will need to be a member of the Association.

This costs just £1 per year and is free for under 16's. Membership forms are available from the BCA office at the Neighbourhood Centre. Many of you will already have a membership and this will cover you for the coach trips. We offer a payment option so tickets can be paid for over a period of time, but must be paid in full before the departure date. No seats are guaranteed until full payment is received. Please book and pay for your seats early to avoid disappointment.

Last year we had eight coaches leave Barton with many disappointed would be passengers left behind because they left it too late. All coaches leave Barton Neighbourhood Centre at 8am and return by 8pm.

- **Bournemouth**
  Tuesday 4 August
- **Brighton**
  Wednesday 12 August
- **Weston Super Mare**
  Thursday 20 August
- **Weymouth**
  Friday 28 August

■ **To book your seats, pay for memberships and tickets please contact Sue on 07866 460446 or email susanholden@hotmail.com**

■ **Alternatively, pop into the BCA office and have a word with Sharon who will be able to provide membership forms and help you with ticket availability.**

Can you help?

WE HAVE received a couple of requests for help and just wonder if any of our readers are able to help out.

Firstly, someone is looking for an enthusiastic gardener to do a few hours as and when needed in a small low maintenance garden to include grass cutting, flower planting and general upkeep.

If you are interested in earning some extra income then please forward your details to Sue Holden on 07866 460446 or susanholden@hotmail.com who will pass them on.

Ideal opportunity for someone currently unemployed or retired with an interest in gardening. Or maybe you have been thinking about setting up your own business and becoming self employed. If you love gardening then give this some thought.

Secondly, another local resident is looking for someone who is able to burn an audio C.D for them. If this is something you enjoy doing then please get in touch. An easy way to earn a bit of pin money doing something you enjoy.

If any of our readers are looking for someone to do paid jobs for them then please let us know and we`ll see if we can help. On the other hand is there someone out there who gets a buzz from ironing, finds housework therapeutic or offers a registered child minding service?

Let us have your details so that we can start compiling our directory of local services for everyone within our community to access.

Father's Day COMPETITION

WIN

a F1 driving experience for your dad



Join us on Saturday 20th June and have a go in the F1 simulator – best lap time wins your dad a F1 driving experience at Thruxton



RUNNERS UP get a pair of tickets to the MG Live 2015

In association with 106 JACK fm playing what we want

TEMPLARS SQUARE Shopping Centre
www.templarssquare.com

www.templarssquare.com
129 Pound Way, Cowley,
Oxford, OX4 3XH
Tel: 01865 74886

In support of Sobell House Hospice

Health & Well Being Champions

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Do you want to help people get the best out of their health?

Do you have time to spare to spread the word?

If so this exciting new voluntary role could be just for you....

We are now recruiting for Volunteer Health & Well-being Champions.

FREE non-accredited and level 2 accredited training provided. We will provide health promotion materials and on-going volunteers support.

Book now for the first non-accredited course on:

23rd & 24th June 2015

Interested? Want to know more?

Or would you prefer to add an accreditation to your learning?

Contact
Cheryl Snudden 07833404411 or
email csnudden@oxford.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

communities@oxford.gov.uk oxcitycommunity oxcitycommunity ☎ 01865 252828

The Roundabout Centre
a centre for children & families

Summer

Spectacular!

Come along and enjoy the start of the summer holidays!

Bouncy Castles

Food

Games

Sumo suits

And lots more !

Come and find out what activities, trips and youth sessions are planned over the summer

Saturday 18th July 2015

11am to 3pm

Barton Pavilion

Barton Community Partnership

If you would like to be part of this event , please contact The Roundabout Centre on 01865 764952

Barton Sings!





SINGING is a good way to meet new people and connect with others in your community. It also boosts physical and mental wellbeing and is a great stress-buster! Sound Resource is an Oxford based charity which runs inclusive singing sessions that promote wellbeing and we run two sessions near Barton, Barton Sings! and Singing for Better Breathing – come and join in!

Ever been told you can't sing? We say everyone can sing! You don't need to be able to read music, or have any experience, as all the songs are taught by ear. There are no auditions and no one is put on the spot. Sessions are led by experienced community singing practitioners, Janet Stansfeld and Liz Hodgson, who use a variety of music including traditional harmony songs and natural voice techniques.

Barton Sings! run by Janet, is open to adults of any age, whether you live in Barton or not. It's a fun group that gets together to learn and share harmony songs from a variety of styles. Members of the group perform at local events, such as Headington Festival and visit local residential care homes (although this is completely optional). It's held every Thursday morning in term time, 9.45–11.45am at Meadowbrook, 59 Stowford Road, Barton. Contact us to let us know that you're interested or come along to a session.

Singing for Better Breathing is held at OSXRAD in Marston on alternate Thursday mornings from 11am–12pm. Group singing can be helpful for those who have trouble breathing. The class, run by Liz, uses tried and tested exercises to open up and strengthen the voice and a variety of songs in whatever key is comfortable. Contact Liz on 01865 792434 to talk to her about coming along.

Participants say "it's fun and the exercises are good", "I've suddenly got a voice!" Janet and Liz are good at enabling people to participate whatever experience of singing or other needs, be it memory or mobility issues – you can sit down to sing if that's more comfortable.

■ **To find out more, have a look at pictures of the groups and contact us go to our website www.soundresource.org.uk, like us on Facebook/SoundResource, follow us on Twitter @soundresouce or email us soundresourcecharity@gmail.com.**

BARTON SUMMER PROGRAMME

● **JSC 4 Kids:**
All things Arty Crafty, Multi Sports, Music, Dance and more.
20 July to 14 August, Monday to Friday, 9am–3pm, Barton Leisure Centre (registration base), Ages 8–12, £1 per child per day, or family ticket £2.50
www.jsc4kids.com/barton-mid-term-activities.php

● **Multi-Sport (including basketball, football, dodgeball, fitness etc.) and Youth Club, for ages 14–21.**
Thursdays, 6.30–8.30pm, at Neighbourhood Centre and MUGA.
Cost: FREE.
☎ 01865 252728
youthambition@oxford.gov.uk

● **Girls' Night Out:**
Sports, fitness, dance, discussion groups, cooking, crafts and more. For ages 14–25
Fridays, 6.30–8.30pm at Neighbourhood Centre.
Cost: FREE.
☎ 01865 252728
youthambition@oxford.gov.uk

● **StreetSports: football, dodgeball, basketball, cricket, american football, table tennis and more! For ages 8 to 13.**
Saturdays, 20 July to 30 August, 12–2pm, at Multi-Use Games Area (a.k.a sports cage) behind the neighbourhood centre,
Cost: FREE.
☎ 01865 252729
sportsdevelopment@oxford.gov.uk

● **Junior Youth Club for ages 8–12.**
(Run by the Early Intervention Service)
Tuesdays, 6–8pm, at the Neighbourhood Centre, FREE.
☎ 01865 328490

Thrive

3 August to 28 August, Monday to Friday.

Cooking, arts and crafts
11am–1pm, at the Neighbourhood Centre.
Ages 12+
Cost: FREE.

Sports
2pm–4pm, at the Neighbour-hood Centre and MUGA
Ages 12+
Cost: FREE.

☎ Contact Jem Todd
01865 788 350
Jem.Todd@innovista.org

● **FREE Swimming Sessions for those under 17 years of age and living in the city**
Barton Leisure Centre
☎ 01865 467290/ 467290

● **FREE Swimming Lessons for young people**
Barton Leisure Centre
☎ 01865 467290/ 467290

● **Fusion Lifestyle: Junior Gym sessions for ages 12–15.**
A 60 minute supervised session to use the gym equipment to help you reach your fitness goals.
An induction is required before your first visit, please contact the centre to book.
20 July to 31 August, Monday to Sunday, at the Barton Leisure Centre.
Cost £4.20.
☎ 01865 467290/ 467290

BARTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BCA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES

YOU may wonder what your Community Association actually does, apart from meeting once a month, and holding an Annual General Meeting at the Community Centre. Well here are a few things you might not know.

● **Planned new development west of Barton**
The BCA meets regularly with representatives of both Oxford City Council and Grosvenor (LLP) to get the best possible deal for the existing community from the new development. The first new residents are expected in late 2016. We want to welcome them as part of Barton, and to make sure we are seen as one community. To help this aim, we're working to ensure that the voice of Barton residents is heard throughout the discussions, and that our views, concerns, opinions and comments are taken into consideration when decisions are made. We've already secured funding to completely refurbish the doctor's surgery. Oxford City Council is looking at refurbishment within the Neighbourhood Centre.

● **Coach trips**
These BCA-organised outings are a favourite. 2014 saw an unprecedented number of trips taking place, including to the Black Country Living Museum, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bath Christmas Market, Westonbirt Arboretum and Birmingham Bull Ring. Some of these trips are subsidised in order to keep them affordable for all.

● **Barton Bash**
The annual Bash is a great community event much enjoyed by Barton residents and those who live elsewhere but want to join in with our celebrations. It gives local people the opportunity to illustrate their skills and abilities, and is an annual favourite.

● **Winter Wonderland**
The Winter Wonderland event took place as usual in December, and was packed with fun things to do and see. Santa proved very popular, as did the tombola. Local MP Andrew Smith turned up to cheer us on, and so did the Town Crier in all his finery. Many activities were free to enjoy.

● **Parish Council**
BCA is looking at applying to become a Parish Council. To move this forward we need the support of at least 250 residents who appear on the electoral role. If successful the BCA would then be able to set their own local priorities and take control of the local budget. This would help the community getting what it wants and deserves. The plan is for the Parish Council to serve both the current community, and the residents of the new development as they arrive.

● **Bingo and Lunch Clubs**
Thanks to the BCA's President Chris Gerkin, bingo and lunch clubs go from strength to strength. Feel free to come along on Tuesday evenings for a game of bingo or Wednesday lunchtimes for a tasty two course meal amongst good company. It's a great way to make new friends and have a laugh.

● **Art Club and Homework Club**
The Homework Club helps to improve results within the school curriculum, while Art Club gives children who love art and crafts a safe place to learn and practise. Both clubs attract external funding to make sure they can continue. Each child is offered quality refreshments, and sometimes even a trip to places such as Cotswold Wildlife Park. iPads, Kindles, Smart Boards and laptops are available to use during sessions, so that children can access technology on a regular basis. We work with local schools to help raise standards and pupil attainment.

● **Funding**
BCA works to get help from funds such as Youth Ambition, the County Council and Social Inclusion. This helps us to run events and activities throughout the year including during the half terms in October and February, as well as summer holidays. Specific funding has included the Learn to Earn and Let`s Cook It Barton.

● **Community Minibus**
The minibus continues to enable local groups to run their own activities. These include Barton United Football Club, Bayards Hill Primary School, The Roundabout Family Centre, Early Intervention, Thrive, and local W.I Groups,. More recently the BCA themselves have started to run regular "out of town" shopping trips for local residents.

● **Eatwells Community Café**
Eatwells caters for the Monday and Wednesday lunch clubs, as well as Northway Community Association lunch club. It provides outside catering, which brings in a valuable income stream for the café. Café staff also distribute supplies from the Oxford Food Bank. People with learning disabilities are encouraged to volunteer on a regular basis and each year the café hosts several school children through the Work Experience programme.

● **Barton Brownies**
Our local Brownies group led by Mary McLean meets at the centre every Tuesday during term time from 6pm–7.15pm and we hope they will become involved in future BCA events. The group welcomes girls aged 7–10, and currently has some vacancies.

● **Christine Gerkin**
BCA President Christine has worked and volunteered for the Association for more than 50 years. It's thanks to people such as her that so many activities and events can be put on for the benefit of Barton residents.

● **Board Of Trustees**
Our trustees work hard to make sure that the BCA meets its aims and objectives for the benefit of their community. If you feel you have any skills or interests to bring to the Board please consider joining us as a trustee. We meet each month and work in close partnership with many organisations, agencies and local authorities. The success of the Association is down to the staff they employ and volunteers they engage with.

Barton Community Association Working with the Community for the Community

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

free swimming sessions!

50 hours a week!



Under 16? Then you can swim for free!*

Are you a parent or guardian of a child aged 16 and under living in Oxford city who enjoys swimming and going to the swimming pool? Did you know that Oxford City Council offers up to 50 hours of free swimming each week! All you have to do is subscribe your children for free swimming sessions now at your local leisure centre!

Where to go

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Leys Pools and Leisure Centre
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Blackbird Leys
Oxford, OX4 6HW

Ferry Leisure Centre
Diamond Place
Summertown
Oxford, OX2 7DP

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(May until September)

Any questions?

Tel: 0844 8933 222*

*BT calls charged max 3 pence per minute, other providers may vary.

Or visit our easy to use website for more information and pool time tables:
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Terms & conditions

- This offer is valid to those aged 16 and under and living in Oxford.
- Oxford City Council and Fusion Lifestyle reserves the right to withdraw the campaign, refuse application or cancel an application for reasons that are out of our control. The Council will not incur any liability from refusal or cancellation.
- Fusion guidelines and polices for swimming must be observed at all times when participating in the activity.
- Free swimming only applies in the designated hours indicated on the pool time table.









fusion Fusion Lifestyle is a registered charity working in partnership with Oxford City Council to manage your local leisure facilities.



Sunday Lunch Launches in July

A NEW lunch for all the family will launch in Barton next month.

"Sunday Lunch" is being hosted on the first Sunday of the month by Barton Community Church, to give everyone in the community – young and old, families and individuals – the opportunity to have a cooked meal with neighbours and friends.

"Sunday is a great time to get together with friends and family and have a cooked lunch," says Robin Peake, of Mather Road, from Barton Community Church. "We love our community and we want to give people the opportunity to get to know other people and enjoy a tasty meal. Mandy from Eatwells is cooking, so we know that it's going to taste good!"

will be activities and games for children although any young people under 16 years old need to be accompanied by an adult who will be responsible for them.

"Sunday Lunch" will meet on the first Sunday of every month at 1pm at Barton Neighbourhood Centre. The first event will be on Sunday, 5 July.

■Tickets need to be bought in advance. They are just £1, and can be bought from Barton Community Church by calling Jem on 07581 794222

CYCLE BOOM

Electrify your spring!



NOW that the clocks have gone forward and the evenings are getting lighter are you looking to get out more and enjoy the spring air? Oxford Brookes University are offering participants age 50 and over and living in the Rose Hill, Barton and Blackbird Leys areas a FREE eight-week loan of an electric bike in return for taking part in their cycle BOOM study.Selected participants will also get a free cycle assessment/ training session, £50 in high street vouchers and a heavy discount on purchase of a new bike and equipment!

INTERESTED? Then get in touch with nbeale@brookes.ac.uk or call 01865 482752
or register your interest here: www.cycleboom.org/contact/participate/



RuskinCollege Oxford

Thanks to Ruskin College for sponsoring this page.
If you are interested in studying at Ruskin College please call 01865 759600 or visit www.ruskin.ac.uk

"Don't just think about it, do it. The only thing that is stopping you is you!"

Says Ruskin College Social Work student Lisa Wiggins.



BEFORE starting the degree in Social Work at Ruskin College (Dunstan Road, Old Headington) Lisa studied some short courses at the Roundabout Centre in Barton which included Budgeting with a Smile, and her Level 2 in maths and English. She is now coming to the end of her first year studying a BA (Hons) Social Work degree.

Remembering the last time she did any formal study, Lisa said "it was my GCSE's back in 1992! I didn't do that well, getting grades D and E".

Before coming to Ruskin Lisa was working part time and looking after her two children now aged two and four. Lisa had been in the same job for 15 years and felt like she was stuck in a rut.

Lisa was extremely anxious about returning to education and was worried that everyone would be younger than her and she wouldn't fit it. Lisa needn't have worried as the college has given her so much support, not just from course tutors, but from Learning Development and the counselling service. She is loving her time at Ruskin. Not only is she enjoying the course but she has made some wonderful friends.

When asked what has been her biggest achievement Lisa said it was getting a first (the highest grade you can get) on her first assessment.

When Lisa finishes her course at Ruskin she hopes to work within the Children and Families department as a social worker, and her long term aims are to be a strong, influential and inspirational woman to encourage other women to go out and get what they want in life.

Would Lisa recommend Ruskin to others? "Absolutely" she says, what are you waiting for? Don't just think about it, do it. The only thing that is stopping you is you!"

To add words of encouragement Lisa let us know that when she first applied she didn't get past interview stage. She was absolutely devastated. Instead of letting this knock her back she followed the advice given to her by the interviewers and used the following few months doing all that she could to get accepted the next time.

Lisa did volunteering and attended free courses. Ten months later she had another interview and was accepted a couple of days later. "I could of given up says Lisa, "but I am so glad I didn't"

Do you want some publicity for your trade?

WE ARE currently exploring the possibility of printing a local information directory to be delivered to all households within our community. This will include contact details of all statutory and commercial organisations that operate within Barton, together with contact details of local tradespeople who wish to advertise their skills.

So, do you do dressmaking, garment alterations, gardening, carpentry, electrical work, carpentry, do you run a taxi service (No need to let us know about the Mum and Dad free taxi service that many of us operate on a regular basis!) are you a dab hand at decorating or do you run a catering business? Are you a registered child-minder with vacancies? Are you skilled under the bonnet of a car or van? Are you a mobile beautician or hairdresser?

The list is endless so if you would like to be included in this proposed publication please let us have your details so that we can start compiling the list of entries.

■ **Phone Sue on 07866 460446 or email susanholden@hotmail.com . Alternatively, call in to the BCA office at the Neighbourhood Centre and leave your details with Sharon.**

The Artists' Movement

OXFORD Artist Promoter, Emmanuel Odwar will be showcasing the fourth edition of The Artists' Movement (TAM) at Blanco on Friday 5 June.

The first two showcases of TAM were held at The Mitre on the High Street in Oxford and at The East Oxford Community Centre and to partially conclude the series of promotions, the third show was at Baby Simple on the Cowley Road.

The show is about promoting Urban Industry standard Artists with the platform to express themselves.

The event will be taking place on the Cowley Road between 10pm and 3am.

On the night, there will be a plethora of talent on display ranging from South African Hip Hop Artist Ro to Soul and R&B Vocalist Nadine Fisher.



RuskinCollege Oxford

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- Language support is available if English is not your first language
- We offer a bursary to help with your living costs, travel and childcare (*subject to eligibility*)
- Residential accommodation is free (*subject to status*)
- If you complete a degree after doing an Access course you will not need to pay back your Access tuition fee loan
- 19–23? You don't need to pay tuition fees

For more information call Hannah on 01865 759604, email enquiries@ruskin.ac.uk or visit www.ruskin.ac.uk

Evergreens Club is alive and well!

WE ARE currently putting plans into place to restart the Evergreens Club each week at the Neighbourhood Centre. Currently we are looking at Thursday afternoons between 2pm –4pm and the sessions will include refreshments and a weekly raffle.

We also have the opportunity to bring in some taster sessions such as Tai Chi and Easy Exercise. As in the past we will also offer a variety of activities including Scrabble, Board Games, Puzzles and much much more. Possibly the odd game of Bingo or maybe the odd song or two! We are hoping to attract some external funding so that we can start planning some day trips as we have done in the past including places such as Bourton on the Water, Mystery trips around the Cotswolds as well as dining opportunities including Cream Teas.

This Club is designed for the Over 50's and everyone will be welcome to come along and enjoy the company of others. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see included or venues you would like to visit then please get in touch.

■ **Watch out for details of our first session, and come along to be part of our newly relaunched Evergreens Club. For further details contact Sue Holden on 07866 460446.**

A LITTLE BIT OF BARTON HISTORY

How many of you remember Gerry McLean?

GERRY cycled from Liverpool to Oxford back in 1932 looking for work. He found employment at Pressed Steel and moved to Barton on 20 January 1947 – the year of horrendous snow conditions throughout the country. At that time there were no footpaths and conditions were impossible. Gerry and his wife had a daughter who attended St Joseph's School as there were no schools in Barton. Later on they had two sons.

Gerry was very active in trying to get a community centre for the local residents, but was told that before that could happen they would have to create a youth club. Initially Gerry and a group of friends organised a charity football match and asked Wilfred Pickles, a well known radio celebrity at the time, to do the honour of kicking off the match, but he asked for a fee of £200 for his appearance at the match. Eventually Mr Pastry, another well known character, offered to do the honours and even gave them a cheque to double what they had already raised.

Along with a cockney friend, Sam Shaw, Gerry organised several outings for the local children. The first meeting was held in the Princes Castle in Barton Village Road, and it was here that the Barton Midgets Football Club was formed. Their first kit sponsor was Aldens Butchers. A picture of Harry Howard and Gerry knocking in the first stake of the community centre appeared in the Oxford Mail in September 1947. The building itself was not new. It was moved from the canal side at Gloucester Green and was moved to Barton in sections. Before the building could be put in place the original drains needed to be located. This proved to be something of a problem and Gerry went along to the Black Boy pub to find the chap who had originally laid the drains. Apparently, this exercise cost Gerry a couple of pints, but he pinned down the information he needed, and the following week the drains were located and erecting the community centre building could begin. This was done entirely by volunteers, residents who gave up all their spare time at evenings and weekends to make sure their dreams became a reality. Amongst the volunteers were plumbers, bricklayers, roofers and ground workers together with an army of willing labourers. There was also help from local students.

Jim Allday's house was used for regular meetings and Councillor Whatley performed the opening ceremony with Jock McKenzie as Chairman of the Association. With the A40 on the doorstop very often the Welsh Rugby teams called into the Fox on their way to and from London. On many occasions they ended up at Gerry`s house for a nightcap before returning to London.

Gerry was given the honour of returning some 43 years later on 22 August 1990 to turn the first sod for the current Neighbourhood Centre.

YOUR STORIES

If you have similar stories you would like to share with our readers then please get in touch. Do you remember Blenheim Nurseries in Barton Village Road, The original Fox Public House and Princes Castle or the newer Fox Public House (Do you remember Fred Walters who ran the pub with military precision) that stood where Ellington Court now stands. Did your children attend Bernwood School or Barton Village First School? Do you remember any of the teaching staff who possibly taught you and your children?

What about the local shops – the hardware shop run by Mr Evans where you could buy a gallon of paraffin for your heater (now Barton Chippy), George and Pauline Knight who ran the haberdashers followed by Daphne Dean (now the Barbers), Mr and Mrs Robertson in charge of the fruit and veg shop (now the chemist) or Stan Jones who ran the newsagents, originally part of the Spar shop. Articles don't need to be any particular length. They can be just a couple of paragraphs or even a couple of sentences. We're more than happy to help you put your memories into words so that we can enjoy talking about our history as well as local characters.

■ **Please call Sue on 07866 460446 or email susanholden@hotmail.com Alternatively, drop into the BCA office on the first floor of the Neighbourhood Centre.**



JSC * Fun Clubs * 2015



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- *Barton Pool & Leisure Centre ~ OX3 8GA*
- *Registration from 9.20am & Collection 3pm*
- £1 Per day & Bring A Healthy Packed Lunch



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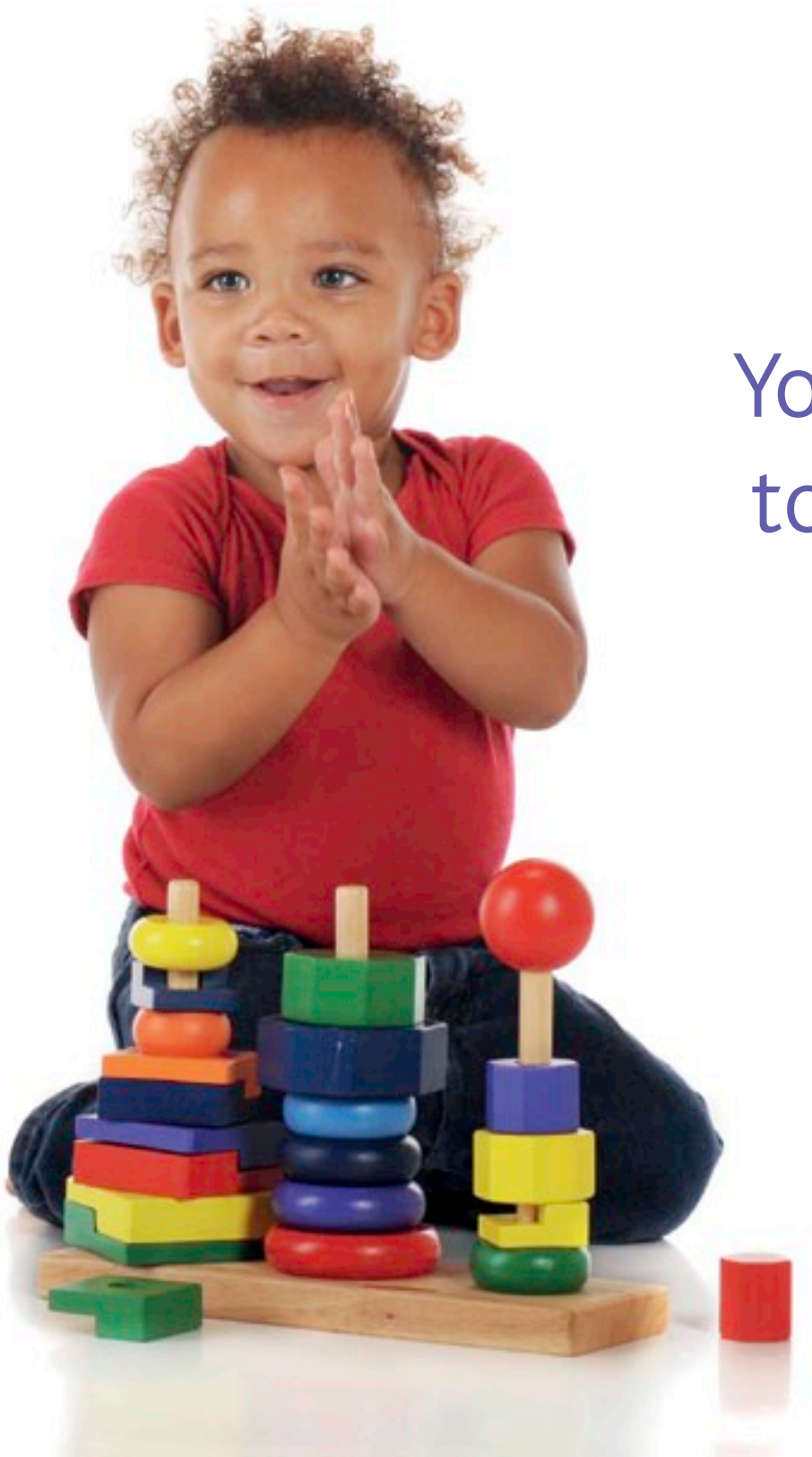
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